



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
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NOVEMBER 30 1992

Mr. Dan M. Fults  
Acting Regional Director  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

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Project	GF
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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED		
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Dear Mr. Fults:

# RED BLUFF DIVERSION DAM PILOT PUMPING PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

State Water Resources Control Board staff has reviewed the "Red Bluff Diversion Dam Pilot Pumping Plant Program Environmental Assessment" (EA). The purpose of the pilot program is to evaluate the performance of two types of pumps just downstream of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) so that the gates can remain open for an extended period, from mid-September through mid-May.

There are a number of apparent benefits to winter-run chinook salmon as well as other salmonids from this proposed pilot project. By opening the gates of the RBDD for an extended period, the various runs are allowed easier passage going up or downstream and predatory fish are not as likely to colonize the RBDD when the gates are open. In addition, elimination of Lake Red Bluff during these months will prevent the heating of the water within the lake reach and below RBDD by approximately 1.0 degree Fahrenheit. Entrainment of juvenile fish will probably be reduced by: the screening of the five existing 25 cfs pumps, the use of the two Archimedes screw pumps (which allow fish to pass through with minimal damage) and the bypass facility. As per California Department of Fish and Game's comments (letter to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, September 4, 1992), testing of the unscreened higher-speed helical centrifugal pump should be conducted when the winter-run juveniles are not present.

Staff has requested a copy of the proposed fisheries evaluation study component of the pilot program referenced on page 20 of the EA. If we have any further comments on the fisheries study we will send them to you in a timely manner. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Ms. Heidi Bratovich at (916) 657-2214.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Anton, Chief  
Division of Water Rights